

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 226026

E.O. 11652GDS

TAGS:OVIP, SCUL, HU, CZ, US

SUBJECT: VISIT BY LEADERS OF AMERICAN CATHOLIC CHURCH TO
HUNGARY AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA

REF: BUDAPEST 3084 (NOTAL)

1. DEPARTMENT RELAYED AMBASSADOR KAISER'S OFFER OF
ASSISTANCE (REFTEL) TO CARDINAL KROL'S OFFICE. CARDINAL
KROL TELEPHONED DEPARTMENT TO OUTLINE THE PURPOSE OF
HIS VISIT TO HUNGARY SEPTEMBER 21-27 AND TO INFORM US
THAT HE WOULD ALSO VISIT CZECHOSLOVAKIA SEPTEMBER 27-29.

2. CARDINAL KROL STATED THAT HE, ACCOMPANIED BY ARCHBISHOP
BERNADINE AND BISHOP RAUSCH, WOULD VISIT HUNGARY AS THE
GUEST OF CARDINAL LEKAI. HE HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT THE
GOH LOOKED UPON THE VISIT WITH FAVOR. HE PLANS TO KEEP
THE VISIT ENTIRELY WITHIN THE ECCLESIASTICAL SPHERE AND
HAS NO PLANNED OR INTENDED CONTACTS WITH GOH OFFICIALS.
HE APPRECIATES THE AMBASSADOR'S KIND OFFER OF ASSISTANCE,
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BUT DOES NOT BELIEVE FORMAL CONTACT OR MEETING WOULD BE
APPROPRIATE, ALTHOUGH HE WOULD BE PLEASED TO MEET THE
AMBASSADOR IN THE COURSE OF SCHEDULED EVENTS.

3. CARDINAL KROL INDICATED THAT IN HIS ARRIVAL SPEECH AT
BUDAPEST AIRPORT HE WILL CLEARLY STATE THAT HE HAS NO
MANDATE EITHER FROM THE USG OR THE VATICAN. HE TOLD US

HE SEES PART OF HIS PURPOSE AS TRYING TO LEND SOME PROMINENCE TO HUNGARIAN PRELATES AS THEY PURSUE THEIR "STRATEGY OF SURVIVAL." KROL PRAISED CARDINAL LEKAI'S EFFORTS IN THIS REGARD.

4. UPON CONCLUSION OF HIS HUNGARIAN VISIT CARDINAL KROL AND HIS PARTY INTEND TO VISIT CZECHOSLOVAKIA SEPTEMBER 27-29, USING A CAR AND DRIVER PROVIDED BY CARDINAL LEKAI. THEY PLAN TO VISIT THE BIRTHPLACE OF SAINT JOHN EUMAN AND OVERNIGHT AT CESKE BUDEJOVICE ON THE 27 AND SPEND SEPTEMBER 28 IN PRAGUE AS THE GUESTS OF THE ARCHBISHOP. THEY WILL DRIVE TO VIENNA ON SEPTEMBER 29. KROL AND HIS PARTY HAVE ALREADY OBTAINED CZECHOSLOVAK VISAS. VANCE

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